

ANIMAL SCIENCE

STOCK REPORT

FALL 2008

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Whats over the horizon?

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE

FROM ASCI TO LAW

MEAT PROCESSING CENTER
FUNDING ALMOST THERE!

CAL POLY

-P

THE *Vision* CONTINUES

BY DEPARTMENT HEAD ANDREW THULIN



"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." -W.A. Nance

Throughout the following pages we hope to enlighten you about some of the ways we are having an impact on young people through our teaching, research and community service. By design, the animal science curriculum is quite diverse to meet the wide range of student interests. Our students have two things in common – they love working with animals and they enjoy science. We have increased efforts to enhance exposure of our students to undergraduate research in many different areas. During the past year, we had nearly 150 undergraduates involved in research projects with animal science faculty. Equally exciting is that many students from other majors and colleges are also involved in our research, providing an opportunity for greater interaction of students with diverse backgrounds. Similarly, we encourage all animal science students to study abroad and participate in international internships to provide greater exposure to cultural diversity and to engage them in global issues. In this issue you will find but two examples out of many, where students have participated in the global environment.

There's no denying it – these are tough economic times throughout the U.S. and around the world. But it is critical that we continue to build young leaders for the future success of this country. Issues such as animal and human health, food production and the biosecurity of our food chain, animal welfare, and conserving, managing and sustaining our varied resources, will all have a major impact on our society and the future quality of life enjoyed by our children. These issues will not disappear in this economic downturn. These and other issues will become significant challenges if we do not make greater efforts to address them today and tomorrow. Demand for veterinarians to practice food animal medicine and support the safety of our food chain continues to grow at an alarming rate. Safety of our food chain is becoming more paramount, with more of our ingredients and products being sourced from other countries. The faculty in animal science continues to revise our curriculum to ensure students are being prepared to address these challenging issues and to provide solutions for the future.

Finally, I would be remiss to not mention the help and support we have received from so many wonderful donors and stakeholders in the animal science program at Cal Poly. We are truly grateful for your kind support and continued belief in our students, faculty and staff, making the essential investments in our program necessary to ensure that we have future leaders to address the growing list of issues facing animals and humans throughout the world.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students in animal science, I hope you enjoy a wonderful holiday season. Thanks again for being part of our team.



Visitors from Auburn University and Kansas State University toured the new Animal Nutrition Center to get ideas for their new facilities. Pictured are visitors from Auburn University, Ibberson Co. & Cal Poly staff.

*"The man who has no imagination has no wings."
~Muhammad Ali*

CAL POLY MEAT PROCESSING CENTER

About three years ago we dared to dream of building a Meat Processing Center (MPC) at Cal Poly which would provide a learning environment to teach young people about meat, food safety and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) methodology, ready-to-eat product development, and packaging innovation. As Yogi Berra once said, "Before you build a better mousetrap, it helps to know if there are any mice out there."



From left: John Harris & David Wood

After preparing a futuristic design for the new MPC, we met with numerous meat food companies around the country and we found that indeed we were on the forefront of something big. And, industry put it's money where it's mouth is, as all but \$500,000 of the funding has come from private industry!

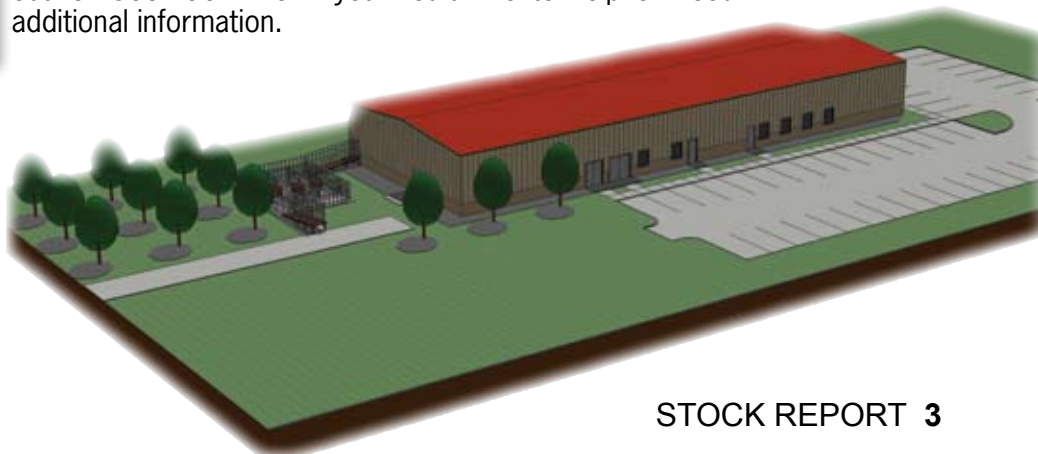
Well, we've got good news. Over the past two years, we have raised \$4.7 million toward our goal of \$5.5 million for construction. The bad news is that we still need \$800,000 to begin construction of the project. The food industry has shared our vision for the future through their verbal and financial support. Many individuals and companies have been very gracious in financially supporting the facility. During the past few months we have received significant contributions from Peter and Mary Beth Oppenheimer, as well as from John Harris and David Wood of Harris Ranch. We sincerely appreciate these kind supporters and all of the many donors who have contributed to take the new MPC from a dream to reality.

George S. Patton once said, "A good plan executed right now is far better than a perfect plan executed next week." We must move forward. We are in the final phase of securing funding for the new processing center and plan to bid the project in January 2009. We are hopeful that we will gain the remaining \$800,000 so the project will not need to be scaled back. The new MPC will serve as the center of excellence for developing new technologies in meat food processing, packaging innovation and food safety for California.

We sincerely appreciate the kind generosity of those companies and individuals who have pledged their financial support for the project. We ask that you share in the vision to have an impact on the food safety and innovation of wholesome meat products for future generations of young people. Please don't hesitate to contact us at athulin@calpoly.edu or 805-756-2419 if you would like to help or need additional information.



Former Cal Poly feed mill managers toured the new Animal Nutrition Center. From left: Casey Callaghan, Mrs. Bob Foster, Mr. Bob Foster, Steve Ray, Ken Zeman, Hank Agostini, & Stan Piffero

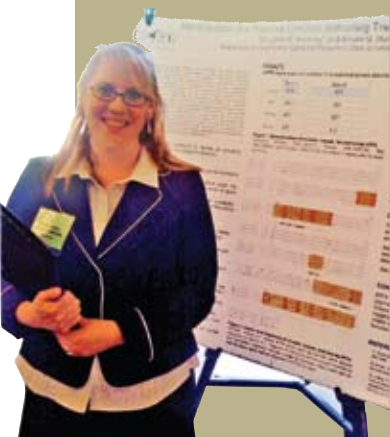


CALIFORNIA ANIMAL NUTRITION CONFERENCE

The 2008 California Animal Nutrition Conference (CANC) was held May 21st and 22nd at California State University, Fresno. The conference featured a grand display of posters, allowing both graduate and undergraduate students to present their research.

Students were eligible to enter the poster contest and compete for awards for best posters selected by a panel of judges. Eight students, five from UC Davis and three from Cal Poly, were selected to present their research. First prize went to Cal Poly Animal Science senior Margaret Hackney. Second and third place prizes were awarded to UC Davis students.

Hackney has been working as a research assistant for advisor Dr. Brooke Humphrey for over a year. Her CANC award-winning research involves studying nutrient utilization and amino acid sensing in poultry. Hackney graduates this winter and is in the process of applying for graduate school in the field of molecular biology.



4 FALL 2008



Written by Tricia Harlan

This year's Western Bonanza Junior Livestock Show will be adorning itself in silver for a celebration of 25 years of success. The 25th anniversary will be held at the Paso Robles Event Center on February 13th through the 15th. Each year, during President's Day Weekend, the Central Coast attracts more than 400 eager young livestock exhibitors from all over California.

The Western Bonanza Management Team—made up of two interns, seven managers and eighteen committee chairs has been arranging the latest program for the 2009 Silver Anniversary. To celebrate this grand achievement, there will be commemorative 25th anniversary celebrations for donors, showmen and past managers of the Western Bonanza class.

Entrants will be earning more than \$43,000 in premium payouts and \$40,000 in prizes thanks to generous sponsor donations. Prizes include belt buckles, jackets, coolers, mugs and duffel bags, all specially imprinted with the 25th Anniversary Logo.

Approximately one hundred students will participate in the Western Bonanza class this year. "We have been waiting 25 years to plan this!" commented Wendy Hall, advisor for the Western Bonanza class. You might want to make sure President's weekend is marked on your calendar to see this gathering of high-class livestock showmen and a Western Bonanza silver debut.



EARLY NAMED NATIONAL FFA SECRETARY

The National FFA Organization welcomes Nessie Early as their new 2008-2009 National Secretary. The Cal Poly animal science sophomore from Shandon, CA was selected from a field of 38 to hold a National FFA office. The organization includes more than 500,000 members across the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

As National FFA Secretary, Early will be traveling to over 40 states to meet with key business leaders, government and educational organizations, and FFA chapters. Early will also participate in an international trip to Japan. She will be responsible for providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting organizational policies and promoting new advancements in the agricultural industry.



CAL POLY HAS LEOPARD TORTOISES?

Thanks to Cal Poly animal science professor Dr. Mark Edwards and the Smithsonian National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., Cal Poly now has the privilege of hosting its own leopard tortoise enterprise. When Edwards found out that the National Zoological Park needed a home for its growing population of leopard tortoises, he knew that Cal Poly's Animal Science Department could offer the animals a good home while allowing knowledge to be gained.

The leopard tortoise enterprise led by Edwards opens many doors to students. It allows students to learn about the husbandry of a unique animal species, serves new research opportunities and provides a controlled group of animals. From the way the animals are handled, to feeding practices and nutrition, acute record keeping and following detailed operating procedures, the students learn techniques practiced in zoos today.

Little, if any leopard tortoise research has been documented. Tortoises are herbivores, eating a strict diet of mostly grasses and other plants. Their digestive tract is much like that of a horse. Documenting data and gaining knowledge from the tortoises can lead to further research and nutrition of other animal species, such as horses.



The enterprise also provides a controlled group of animals. The 18 four-year-old tortoises and one 10-year-old female all originate from the same genetics. These closely related animals are monitored under controlled conditions at Cal Poly for contract research.

The enterprise has also caught the attention and interest of many Animal Science students as well. Last spring quarter, Edwards allowed 18 students into the enterprise, yet nearly twice that number applied. With so many new, innovative things happening with the tortoises, who wouldn't want to get in on this enterprise?



From Left:
Carlie Day,
Kara Hargraves,
& Lyndsey
Nardone

NEWS BRIEFS

HALL APPOINTED TO NALF

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the North American Limousin Foundation (NALF) was held January 14 in Denver, in conjunction with the National Western Stock Show (NWSS). NALF is a very progressive association with outstanding staff and board members that makes up the fourth largest registry of all breeds of cattle in North America. NALF helps to move the breed forward with new direction as the beef seedstock business faces major new changes.

Among the new board members to be nominated at the meeting was animal science professor Mike Hall. Hall joined the board in 2008 as the head of Junior Activities Operations & Performance Programs. Hall hopes that by being on the board he will be able to strengthen and guide the breed to regain popularity in the cattle industry.



SNAFFLE BIT FUTURITY

Members of Cal Poly's Performance Horse Sale Enterprise ventured to Reno, Nev., for the Snaffle Bit Futurity. The event lasted over two

weeks and included everything from trade shows to auctions. The actual horse sale was held Oct. 2nd–4th and included buyers and sellers from across the nation.

Cal Poly's top selling horse "I CD PRIZE", a two-year-old gelding trained by student Erin Schlegel, sold for

\$4,800. A total of five horses were sold, four of which were in the two-year-old performance horse class and one yearling in the yearling classic class. The animals sold for an average of \$3,400.

Members of the enterprise that traveled to Reno with advisor Pete Agalos included: Erin Schlegel, Sarah Senff, Bonnie Baver and Katie Goforth. "It's a great learning experience, being able to travel to Nevada and see how a large horse sale works," said animal science student Sarah Senff.

ASCI WOWIES & PROFESSORS MEET UP



Animal Science Department Head Dr. Andrew Thulin greets students at the WOW Barbecue.

During Cal Poly's annual "WOW," or Week of Welcome, new animal science students were welcomed by faculty and staff at the animal science department's WOW Barbecue.

New students enjoyed fresh hamburgers and cold drinks while they mingled with fellow animal science students and faculty. Students were introduced to their animal science professors, learning the areas of study they specialize in as well as the courses, clubs, and opportunities that are currently being offered. Students were also assigned to their advisors and met with them in small groups, allowing faculty to address any questions or concerns regarding their entry to Cal Poly.



AGALOS JOINS CA PARKS BOARD

Professor Pete Agalos of Cal Poly's animal science department recently agreed to serve as the new equine specialist on the Resource Advisory Board for the California Parks Companies at Lassen Volcanic National Park. Agalos will be responsible for equine maintenance and waste management.

CAL POLY'S DRESSAGE



Last April the Cal Poly Dressage Team earned their place in the nationals for the fourth year in a row. After placing first in their region last year, the team was allowed to send a team and three individuals to the nationals. Kelly Hanseth, Elise Torres, Christina Forney, Summer Baird and Anja Treinen were chosen to compete. The team placed twelfth overall. Individually, Kelly Hanseth placed eighth at First Level, Summer Baird placed tenth at Lower Training and Anja Treinen placed eighth at Intro Level.

The team consists of more than 20 members and is coached by Dr. Jaymie Noland and animal science student Lauren Robinson. The team meets at least twice a week to practice and work on technique. President Kelly Hanseth said she has high hopes for the team and thinks they will have a good chance at next year's nationals.



PERFORMANCE HORSE SALE

Cal Poly hosted its annual Performance Horse Sale Oct. 11. With over 200 guests, Cal Poly students, faculty, and staff showed off all their hard work and training with their horses.

The sale kicked off with a conformation preview, lunch, then the cattle working preview and sale. A total of 17 Cal Poly student-trained horses were sold. The highest selling horse, "Badgers Lil Einstein" sold for \$5,200 to buyer Lee Pitts.

After the sale a silent auction of novelty gifts and baskets was held. All of the proceeds from the sale went to help support the Equine Science program.



EQUESTRIAN TEAM HOSTS SHOW

Cal Poly's Equestrian Team hosted its first Intercollegiate Horse Show of the season Nov. 1st and 2nd. Of the many teams to compete were University of California, Davis, Stanford University, Santa Clara University, University of Nevada, Reno, College of the Sequoias, and California State University, Sonoma.

The Cal Poly Equestrian team has over 60 members, all of whom compete and play a vital role to the team. Sixteen members of the team competed in the English Show on Saturday, while 7 competed in the Western Show on Sunday. Equestrian team president Kaitlin Spark said, "I would like to thank all members of the community for the generous donations and use of their horses. Without them we wouldn't have been able to put on such a great competition."

ZEPEDA GOES ON AN AFRICAN SAFARI



Animal science graduate Elaine Zepeda says she will never forget the day she ventured to South Africa last October for a wild veterinary safari internship.

When Zepeda heard that a veterinarian heading to South Africa needed an intern, she knew she had found the perfect internship. For a week, Zepeda traveled around South Africa caring for wild animals. Zepeda also assisted at an elephant sanctuary, a private game reserve, a cheetah breeding site, a wildlife holding facility, and a Black Rhino reserve.

Zepeda says that her favorite part of the safari was working with the endangered Black Rhino weanlings. "Since the animals were all under anesthesia, everything had to be fast-paced and you had to learn how to work quickly and efficiently. The mother rhinos were still very much protective of their weanling calves, so you had to be aware of your surroundings," said Zepeda.

Zepeda is currently applying to veterinary schools and hopes to become a small animal emergency care veterinarian.

UNITING WITH UNITED FOOD GROUP



Andrea Moline thanks the Meat Science program along with Drs. Robert and Lynn Delmore of the animal science department for her success. When Moline graduated in 2007, United Food Group, LLC (her current employer) was in the tail-end of a massive 5.7 million pound ground beef recall.

In response to this recall, as well as growing concerns regarding the increasing number of E. coli related illnesses, United Food Group constructed very detailed beef purchase specifications to be required of all their suppliers.

Moline was hired to manage United Food Group's beef, ingredient and packaging suppliers and assist with plant regulatory compliance issues. Moline's position requires that she work with all suppliers to ensure that they comply with the United Food Group's beef purchase specifications before products are purchased.

In the relatively short time Moline has been with United Food Group, she has advanced to her current position of Regulatory Compliance and Purchase Specifications Coordinator.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT EMPLOYEES



From left: Kayleen McLain, President Baker & Alyssa Roberts

Among the many students honored at this year's Outstanding Student Employees of Year (OSEY) award ceremony, two were from animal science: Kayleen McLain and Alyssa Roberts.

Both McLain and Roberts served as student managers for the Cal Poly Sheep Unit under faculty advisor Rob Rutherford. As student managers of the sheep unit, which consists of more than 130 acres of rugged land and 120 ewes, the women were responsible for flock health, nutrition planning, infrastructure maintenance, public tours, security and assistance with various educational opportunities—all while they maintained GPA's over 3.5.

"Of course, management implies decision making. Therefore, they were decision makers—not just hired help doing what they were told, as is common in a lot of the jobs on campus," said Rutherford.

Rutherford went on to say that although he has worked with many motivated and talented young people, it had NEVER been so easy to be an employer as when McLain and Roberts were managing the sheep unit.

"I am so grateful to Cal Poly for giving me the opportunity to experience such an amazing company, as well as the Lazy E for taking such a commanding role in the education of college students."



DARWAY TEAMS UP WITH LAZY E

After returning to Cal Poly from her summer internship at Lazy E Ranch, animal science senior Jessica Darway says she'll definitely be going back.

Lazy E Ranch, located in Guthrie, Okla., prepares over 500 horses a year for sales and nearly 800 mares with breeding services while also providing boarding and rehabilitation for both the quarter horse and thoroughbred race industries.

As an intern, Darway was responsible for breaking, walking, bathing and clipping the yearlings and general maintenance and development of the horses. She was also involved in the actual presentation of the horses at the sales.

"I felt right at home discussing pedigrees, showing the horses to customers, and answering questions that people had. I was able to market the animals at the sale because I have an understanding for the background, importance of the pedigree, family racing history and the type of horses certain clientele would be interested in," said Darway.

Darway also stated "I am so grateful to Cal Poly for giving me the opportunity to experience such an amazing company, as well as the Lazy E for taking such a commanding role in the education of college students."



DESMOND ASSISTS BHS

Mae Desmond jumped on the technology bandwagon with Bella Health Systems last summer to help aid in the management of cattle herd health.

Bella Health Systems (BHS), located in Kersey, CO., recently produced a bolus for cattle that allows dairy operators to manage their herd's health with regular monitoring of each animal's core temperature and ID. The system alerts the dairy operator to one of three different core temperature alerts: "Elevated", "Cold" or "Estrus". This leads to early detection of illness, lower mortality rates and overall better herd performance.

Desmond, a Cal Poly animal science senior, heard about the company and jumped at the chance to participate in a summer internship with BHS. As an intern Desmond was responsible for examining alerted temperature graphs, preparing work orders and monitoring improvements of animal health conditions.

Bella Health Systems offered Desmond a permanent position for field research and client liaison, an opportunity she says she may pursue after graduating in 2009.

"UNUSUALLY" GREAT YEAR FOR THE CAL POLY THOROUGHBREDS



From left: Animal science students Karen & Kelly Shaw

Jan. 19th, 2007, found a group of avid Cal Poly students witnessing the birth of an eagerly awaited foal. It's not often that Cal Poly has a foal sired by the leading Thoroughbred stallion in California! This "Unusual Heat" colt immediately became a favorite and was appropriately nicknamed "Blaze" due to his handsome blazed face. The students handled all of the important events in his young life, including imprinting training, halter breaking and the registration paperwork to prepare this colt for his promising future at the track. Their hard work was rewarded on Sept. 30th at the Barrett's Select Yearling Sale as the gavel fell on the final bid of \$25,000. "Unusual Encounter," as the students so aptly named him, sold well above the sale median of \$9,000. His new owner, Madeline Auerbach, has been a strong supporter of Cal Poly and indeed was responsible for making this all possible as she donated the breeding in 2006 that produced this colt. We look forward to his success at the racetrack and wish to thank Madeline for helping contribute to the legacy of Cal Poly Thoroughbreds!

Changing times bring Changing Careers: **ASCI TO LAW**

Written by Bernie Fipp



How does a young person from La Jolla, California leave the beach and become an outdoorsman, a cowboy, an animal scientist and a lawyer?

"I think it all started with family vacations to Idaho and Montana and my introduction to working horses and dogs" says Jim Fipp, a 2002 graduate of Cal Poly's animal science department. "While the rest of the family was busy doing other things I hung out at the stables all day asking for work and talking to the ranch hands. This began my interest in animals large and small" says Fipp.

Fipp decided to attend Cal Poly to pursue veterinary medicine. While at Cal Poly, Fipp thoroughly enjoyed participating in a number of hands-on projects such as the Ranch Horse Enterprise Project, Broiler Enterprise Project and Egg Production Enterprise Project. He also helped Cal Poly's Lacrosse Team qualify for the national tournament for the first time. The team finished tenth in the nation and Fipp earned his fourth appointment to the Western Collegiate Lacrosse League All Star Team, becoming an All American.

As Fipp progressed through the rigorous animal science program he became interested in the business of agriculture and decided to focus on agri-business rather than veterinary medicine. "I'm a lucky guy," he says. "At this point I met Dr. Andy Thulin who had traveled both the academic and the business routes. He became my counselor and guide into the enormous industry of feeding the world." After graduation, Fipp decided to take a business management training position with Cargill.

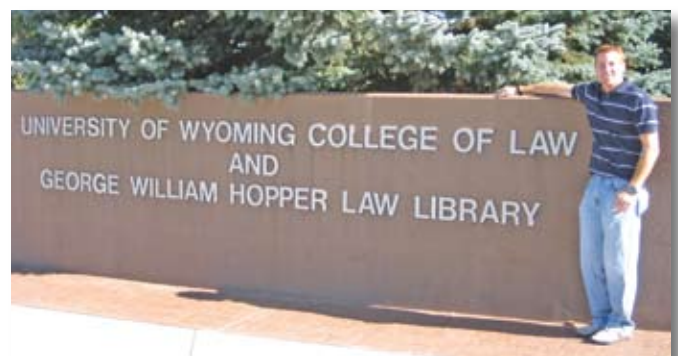
Fipp worked for Cargill for four years, becoming a manager in a little over two of those years. He traveled with the company starting in Giddings, Texas, then Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, Sterling Colorado, and ending in Sioux City, Iowa. In Sterling, at the age of 26, Fipp was named business manager of a district consisting of four manufacturing plants.

After moving numerous times, the thought of calling one place home had increasing appeal. Jim's sister, a practicing lawyer, had been preaching to him

about the challenges of the law. "I just thought," he said, "that the legal field would, of course, be challenging, but more importantly, utilize my strengths and allow me to live where I wanted to." So Fipp decided to settle down in Denver, CO.

Fipp attended the University of Wyoming College. After his first year he did an externship with the Honorable Alan B. Johnson of the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming. During his second year he was invited to write for the Wyoming Law Review. His article, "How Strong is Strong Enough: The Tellabs Court Lacked the Needed Strength for Pleading Scienter in Securities Fraud," 8 Wyo. L. Rev 629, was published in the Wyoming Law Review. After his second year Fipp focused on a summer clerkship with Denver law firm Hogan & Hartson. Now in his final year of law school, Fipp is the articles editor of the Wyoming Law Review and completing classes in corporate law.

Jim Fipp believes that at some point he would like to tie the practice of law to his love of the agricultural industry. Meanwhile, he started a photography business, Fippphotos.com. Additionally, he and his brothers are in the beginning stages of starting a company, Dream Great.com, an enterprise whose mission is to teach kids how to set and achieve goals and ultimately fulfill their dreams. Perhaps, he thinks, he might one day achieve his own dream of owning a ranch and returning to his animal science roots.



WETMORE GOES ABOVE & BEYOND



Cal Poly
Malawi team
meeting with
the Chauwa
Village.

Animal science student Grace Wetmore is on a mission— a mission to help stop world hunger, protect wildlife and save natural ecosystems.

After taking a series of classes called Appropriate Technologies for Impoverished Communities she joined an organization of students and faculty, who decided to travel to Malawi, Africa and start doing their part to help.

“We did extensive research on appropriately assessing the needs of the people and deciding on an appropriate technology that would help to solve some of their problems. The most important things were that the technologies are affordable, materials are locally available and have long-term benefits,” says Wetmore.

The team’s main focus was on farming practices that do not utilize irrigation. They constructed a bike-powered water pump that rotated and folded up above the bike tire so that the farmer could travel to different field locations with the pump.

The team worked on fundraising for airfare and travel expenses throughout the summer to go to Malawi. After meeting with Dr. Andrew Thulin, head of the animal science department, Wetmore was provided with the necessary funding for travel expenses.



From Right:
Grace
Wetmore with
widows from
the Kafita
Church.

Once in Malawi, Wetmore and her team met with numerous communities and irrigation specialists to discuss agricultural solutions, demonstrate the bicycle-powered pump, and get feedback about the pump. The pump seemed to be a success, being both cheaper and more efficient than the pumps currently in their communities.

Since her return from Malawi, Wetmore knows she wants to continue to work to protect wildlife and the environment. She says, “In order to protect wildlife and natural ecosystems, people need to start with the basics. Starting with the basics means that people in poverty need sustainable ways to have clean water to drink and grow their crops. Once that happens, poor families can grow crops that will feed animals for producing meat and animal products to sell.”

BRIEFS

CAL POLY BULL TEST WEEKEND

Written by Tricia Harlan



Cattle buyers, breeders and ranchers from across the state converged at the Cal Poly Beef Center on October 4th and 5th for the 52nd Annual Field Day and Bull Test Sale.

The Field Day included educational workshops, industry updates and a panel of speakers. It was sponsored by the California Cattlemen's Association and the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association.

The latest industry developments and regulations were discussed by Kevin Kester, California Cattlemen's Second Vice President; Dr. John Beckett and Mike Sculpizio, McElhaney Cattle Co.; Dr. Joe Campbell, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc.; and Dr. Lynn Delmore, Cal Poly State University.

Speakers discussed the most recent regulation on the animal science industry is Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (MCOOL). "This four part labeling system would affect fifty percent of all meat sales in the United States," commented Kester. The advantages of age and source verification were a focus of both industry

speakers and panel. Quality System Assessments were most extensively discussed, as well as the importance of keeping detailed records for animal sales. Sculpizio said "Keeping detailed and accurate records adds premiums to your production practices."

A Beef Quality Assurance certification program was also offered. The program offered a two hour course with several speakers focusing on handling, medication practices, and identification programs.

The 2008 Bull Test Sale featured 77 premium bulls. Students were involved in veterinary care, feeding, and planning of the fall sale.

The Bull Test Management Team consisted of Cal Poly students Noah Nelson, Chris Leffler, and Shannon Aguilar. Mike Hall served as the Bull Test advisor for the approximately 30 students.

These students participated in a number of committees, including field day, records, health management, facilities, and feeding. They gained

skills that could be used in the real world after graduation. The daily health checks, managing the facilities, and meeting beef producers were a few of the different opportunities.

The Cal Poly Bull Test sells the top fifty percent of the tested bulls. Angus, Red Angus, Sim-Angus, Limousin, Charolais, Polled Herford, and Murray Grey breeds were featured in this year's sale. High-performing and champion bulls were awarded to the bull consignor in each breed division.

The Low-Birth Weight Angus bulls obtained the highest average of \$3,656. The Limousin bulls on test received the second high average of \$2,567.

HORSE SALE

JANUARY 17, 2009



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ITS ALL CONNECTED..

Written by Gerald M. Leukam, member of ASCI Advisory Council

The dream of having new learning centers for Cal Poly's animal science department is nearing realization. Its been labeled "Andy's 16-Million-Dollar-Story." Department Head Dr. Andrew Thulin matched up \$8 million from the state with nearly \$8 million from private partnership donations. Currently, Dr. Thulin is approximately \$800,000 short of reaching the necessary amount to allow the Meat Processing Center project to be released for final bids and construction. If time is allowed to pass and the project gets caught in another construction cycle, the current budget for the facility could see a significant increase.



The meats center is the last of three facilities to get complete funding. The Beef Center, Animal Nutrition Center and the expansion to the cattle evaluation facility are complete. These new facilities are vital to Cal Poly's learn-by-doing philosophy.

Dr. Thulin's efforts have hurled the Cal Poly animal science department into the industry's upbeat limelight. The benefactors of the technologically advanced industry centers are Cal Poly's young men and women. These students will follow yesterday's alumni to become tomorrow's industry leaders.

"We saw a unique opportunity and decided to go for it," Thulin said. "We are now seeking partnerships with alumni, parents and industry supporters to complete these centers where our students will learn to apply scientific principles and use the latest technology. These facilities are vital to our learn-by-doing philosophy."

ANIMAL SCIENCE STOCK REPORT

FALL 2008

Published by Cal Poly's Animal Science Department as a link among the nation's premier animal science program, alumni and friends. The department's doors are open and questions and comments are welcome.

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